

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION NEA-13

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EUR-25 CIAE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-10 L-03

NSAE-00 NSC-10 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SPC-03 SS-20

USIA-15 SAM-01 MC-02 ACDA-19 AID-20 IGA-02 DRC-01

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FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2791

INFO SECDEF WASHDC

USCINCEUR

USMISSION NATO

USDOCOSOUTH

CINCUSAFE

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

S E C R E T ANKARA 1144

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, TU

SUBJ: DISCUSSION WITH FONMIN GUNES ON MAP

1. MIN COURSE OF MEETING WITH NEW TURK FOREIGN MINISTER GUNES ON FEBRUARY 13, I ADVISED HIM THAT US MILITARY AID FIGURES FOR FY75 WOULD BE 61.2 MILLION. GUNES' INITIAL REACTION WAS TO EXPRESS DISAPPOINTMENT THAT FIGURE WAS NOT HIGHER IN VIEW OF TURKISH ARMED FORCES SERIOUS SHORTFALLS RELATIVE TO GOALS FIXED BY NATO. IN RESPONSE I EXPRESSED SATISFACTION THAT FIGURE WAS SUCH A SIGNIFICANT ONE, NOTING THAT AN EVEN HIGHER PERCENTAGE OF THE TOTAL AVAILABLE FUNDS WAS COMING TO TURKEY THAN USUAL. GUNES SAID HIS REMARK SHOULD NOT BE INTERPRETED AS CRITICISM. TURKEY WAS DEEPLY GRATEFUL TO USG FOR ITS ASSISTANCE.

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2. WHILE ON SUBJECT OF ASSISTANCE, I TOOK OPPORTUNITY TO MAKE

POINT THAT TURKEY'S ECONOMIC POSITION HAD IMPROVED GREATLY IN RECENT YEARS. WITH ITS OWN RESOURCES IT COULD DO MORE, AND ALL INDICATIONS WERE THAT TURKEY WANTED TO DO MORE FOR ITSELF. CONTINUING, I SAID THAT IT APPEARED THAT TURKEY WAS APPROACHING THE DAY WHEN IT WOULD NO LONGER REQUIRE CONCESSIONAL ECONOMIC AID. WE RECOGNIZE, HOWEVER, THAT THAT DAY WAS MORE DISTANT AS REGARDS THE NEED FOR MILITARY ASSISTANCE.

3. IN THIS CONNECTION, HOWEVER, I NOTED AS A PERSONAL JUDGMENT THAT THE LONG-TERM PROSPECTS FOR CONGRESSIONAL APPROVAL OF LARGE MAP BUDGETS WERE GLOOMY. DOWN THE ROAD I COULD ONLY FORESEE DECLINING MAP APPROPRIATIONS. BALANCING THIS NEGATIVE PICTURE WERE TWO PLUS FACTORS, HOWEVER. FIRST, BECAUSE OF TURKEY'S STRENGTHENING ECONOMIC POSITION ITS NEED FOR ASSISTANCE WAS DIMINISHING; AND, SECOND, I WAS CONFIDENT THAT IF US-TURKISH RELATIONSHIPS CONTINUED ON THEIR TRADITIONAL COURSE, USG OFFICIALS WOULD DO ALL THEY COULD TO ENSURE THAT TURKEY CONTINUED TO RECEIVE IMPRESSIVE SHARE OF WHATEVER MILITARY ASSISTANCE WAS AVAILABLE.
MACOMBER

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